

Local Teacher Part of NEH Grant for Digital Humanities Project

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 11, 2022 – Rachel Tracy of Richmond Community High School has been chosen to take part in a digital humanities project funded by a \$147,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The project, Teaching and Learning William Faulkner in the Digital Age, aims to help high school, community college, and university instructors create learning modules using Digital Yoknapatawpha. Digital Yoknapatawpha is a massive digital humanities database that reproduces the fictional world of Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner through interactive maps, visualizations, archival documents, historical photographs, and audio recordings that was created by Stephen Railton and an international team of scholars with the help of a previous NEH grant (<http://faulkner.iath.virginia.edu/>).

Rachel Tracy is one of ten teachers selected nationwide to develop and pilot classroom learning modules over a two-year period beginning in the summer of 2022. The project is being co-directed by Dr. Johannes Burgers of Ashoka University in India and Dr. Christopher Rieger, director of the Center for Faulkner Studies at Southeast Missouri State University. Dr. Worthy Martin, director of the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia, will serve as the director of technology.

According to Rieger, “The aim of Teaching and Learning William Faulkner in the Digital Age is to make these materials more accessible to teachers and students through learning modules that cater to different educational institutions and contexts.” The modules will be developed and piloted over a period of two-years and then made available for free to all teachers and students on the Digital Yoknapatawpha site. “Through this grant,” Dr. Burgers said, “a new generation of readers will get a fresh perspective on one of America's most anthologized authors while also exploring a new type of information literacy that poses critical questions about how we acquire, classify, and represent knowledge in the digital age.”